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DAYTON, Ohio, March 10, 1968 --- Is William Faulkner's "The Sound and the Fury" a religious novel? The Rev. Nathan Scott of the University of Chicago Divinity School, next speaker on the 1968 University of Dayton's Intellectual Frontiers Series, thinks so.

Rev. Scott, who has been with UC since 1955, will speak this Wednesday, March 13, on "The 'Conscience' of the New Literature: Or Between Antioch and Alexandria," in the O'Leary Auditorium, Miriam Hall, at 8 p.m. He is the third lecturer on the series' five-lecture program.

"While Faulkner himself was a somewhat cynical agnostic, and few readers would find much spiritual comfort in his dour chronicle of the Compson family," says Dr. Scott, "behind the novel's secular facade lies a poetic expression of what theology calls "kairos"---the divine gift of time span in which man exists on earth.

Dr. Scott, who has a bachelor's degree in English literature and a Ph.D. in religion from Columbia University, is a leading exemplar of a fast-growing specialty in U.S. seminaries and universities: the joint study of literature and theology. Pioneered by UC in 1950, eight other U.S. universities and divinity schools are offering this program mostly on the graduate level. The programs require students to be as familiar with secular writing as sacred.

Chicago has the most developed program with 17 courses, ranging from a seminar on "Moby Dick" to a study of the novel and urban imagination dealing with Dickens, Balzac, and Fitzgerald. Along the way to a Ph.D. students must master five fields of religious study, including the Bible and History of Christianity; the position of one major modern theologian, or the entire body of one major writer's work, and one classic criticism--plus two foreign languages, usually German and French.

Doctor Scott, who also taught at Howard University in Washington, D.C., has written six books, is co-editor of "The Journal of Religion" and literary editor of "The Christian Scholar."